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TAGS: [PINR](#) [EINV](#) [ENRG](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IT](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: (C) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ITALY-RUSSIA
RELATIONS (C-RE9-02730)

REF: A. ROME 000097
[1](#)B. ROME 000948 ...

Classified By: ELISSA G. PITTERLE, DIRECTOR, INR/OPS

[1](#)1. (C) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS GREATLY APPRECIATE THE EXCELLENT REFS ON ITALIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC, AS POST'S TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT. BECAUSE ITALY IS ONE OF RUSSIA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN EUROPE, THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POLICYMAKER INTEREST IN ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA. RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER VLADIMIR PUTIN OR RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DIMITRY MEDVEDEV, AND ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

[1](#)2. (C) THERE IS ALSO CONTINUED POLICYMAKER INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA. U.S. POLICYMAKERS ALSO REMAIN INTERESTED IN ITALY'S MOVEMENT TOWARDS ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION AND THE RESTART OF ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM.

[1](#)A. (U) FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY:

1) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RUSSIAN PM VLADIMIR PUTIN AND ITALIAN PM SILVIO BERLUSCONI. WHAT PERSONAL INVESTMENTS, IF ANY, DO THEY HAVE THAT MIGHT DRIVE THEIR POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA?

2) (C) WHAT FACTORS ARE DRIVING ITALY'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH RUSSIA?

3) (C) HOW DO ITALIAN LEADERS VIEW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA. HAVE ITALIAN POLITICAL OR BUSINESS LEADERS INFLUENCED RUSSIAN POLICY AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS, AND IF SO, HOW?

[1](#)B. (U) ENERGY POLICY:

1) (C) WHAT ARE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' AND ENI OFFICIALS' VIEWS ON ITALY'S ENERGY RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA AND THE SOUTH STREAM PROJECT? WHERE DOES ITALIAN ENERGY POLICY CONVERGE WITH RUSSIAN ENERGY POLICY?

2) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENI EXECUTIVES, INCLUDING CEO SCARONI, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ENERGY POLICY AREA.

3) (C) PLEASE PROVIDE EXAMPLES, IF POSSIBLE, OF ANY INSTANCES WHERE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MADE DECISIONS TO BENEFIT ITALIAN BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF POLITICAL CONCERNS.

[1](#)3. (U) PLEASE CITE C-RE9-02730 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.
CLINTON